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## Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church

The Very Rev. Father Simeon Odabashian, Pastor

70 Jefferson Street Providence, Rhode Island 02908

TEL (401) 272-7712 J FAX (401) 272-2832

<http://www.stsahmes.org>

e-mail: [office@stsahmes.org](mailto:office@stsahmes.org)

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### Schedule of Sunday Services

Morning Service (*Keesherajeen & Aravodyan Jham*) 9:10 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy (*Soorp Badarak*) 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 18, 2007

Great Barekendan

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-14 (Pg. 733) Romans 13:11-14:25 (Pg. 148)

Matthew 6:1-21 (Pg. 5)

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### From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Today, as faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, we begin our Lenten spiritual journey. This six-week period has been referred to as the "Lenten Spring." In our part of the world the connection between the spiritual journey and the climate/weather are most evident and helpful.

As Great Lent commences we find ourselves battling the coldest, snowiest and iciest time of the year. If the Lenten journey is to have any real meaning we need to recognize that sin has frozen our hearts. In the gospels Jesus speaks of the "hardness of hearts" regarding those who pay more attention to the "letter of the law" than to the "spirit of the law." The Lenten period is truly given to us as a gift by the holy Fathers of the church to bring about a change in our hearts.

How often to I experience frustration when I observe the faithful refusing to embrace one another as brothers and sisters united in the love of Christ! How often am I saddened to hear a brother or sister speaking badly of another member of the body of Christ! How often are we ignoring Jesus' command to see Him in one another and to treat one another accordingly! The fact that brothers and sisters in the community ignore and intentionally refuse to speak to one another is a spiritual outrage! If we take our Christian commitment seriously than we cannot be comfortable with the status quo!

Our sister Orthodox Churches have a wonderful tradition at the beginning of Great Lent which is called "Forgiveness Sunday." At a certain point during the liturgy each person in

the congregation embraces one another and says, "Forgive me." If Lent is to have any real meaning for us, we need to have this spirit. None us is perfect, yet our Lord's saving words are to the point, "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Friends, let us take advantage of the Lenten journey to experience true spiritual growth by taking to heart the three essential components of Lent: **almsgiving** (good works), **prayer** and **fasting**. Together with repentance, the confession of sins, Great Lent has the power to transform our lives: to make us more loving and forgiving people because we have experienced God's love and forgiveness in the crucifixion of His Son.

The Golden Chain of Lenten Sundays provides the faithful with important spiritual themes and lessons: **Poon Paregentan** – God's creation is good and the crown of his creation, mankind, has been given the gift of free-will; **Expulsion** – when we allow our pride and ego to get in the way we deprive ourselves from our creator's blessings; **Prodigal Son** – we have a loving and forgiving heavenly Father, who welcomes us back when we truly repent of our sins; **Steward** – we are called to use our talents to build up the body of Christ; **Judge** – we must always be in communication with God through prayer; and **Advent** – Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.

During this season of Great Lent, make a commitment to attend church faithfully not only each Sunday, but on Wednesday evenings when the faithful gather in prayer. May our heavenly Father bless our Lenten journey and over the next forty days may our frozen hearts increasingly experience the warmth of the Holy Spirit as our spiritual paths lead to the focal point of spring – the feast of the Resurrection of Christ our God!

With prayers,  
*Hayr Simeon*

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**Response when Kissing the Cross (during the procession):**

The **faithful** says:

**Յիշեցիր եւ զիս առաջի անմահ գառինն Աստուծոյ:**  
*Hee-shes-cheer yev zees a-rra-chee an-mah ka-rinn As-doo-dzo.*  
(Remember me before the immortal Lamb of God.)

The **priest** says:

**Յիշեալ լիջիր առաջի անմահ գառինն Աստուծոյ:**  
*Hee-shyal lee-cheer a-rra-chee an-mah ka-rinn As-doo-dzo.*  
(You shall be remembered before the immortal Lamb of God.)

**Response for the Kiss of Peace:**

The giver says:

**Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ:**  
*Krees-dos ee mech mer hayd-ne-tsav.*  
(Christ is revealed in our midst.)

The receiver says:

**Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:**  
*Orh-nyal eh hayd-noo-tyoo-nun Krees-do-see.*  
(Blessed is the revelation of Christ.)

**Response when Kissing the Gospel (after the Divine Liturgy):**

The faithful says:

**Յիշեցէ՛ Տէր զամենայն պատարագս քո:**  
*Hee-shes-tseh Der za-me-nayn ba-da-ra-kus ko.*  
(May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.)

The priest says:

**Տացէ՛ քեզ Տէր ըստ սրտի քում:**  
*Da-tseh kez Der usd sur-dee koom.*  
(May the Lord grant to you according to your heart.)

**Participating in the Divine Liturgy:** Please follow the prayers and hymns in the Divine Liturgy pew books. The front section contains the Armenian Krapar text and modern Armenian translation, while the latter part gives the English transliteration and translation. Page numbers are illuminated at the upper left and right sides of the main altar. Please sing along with any of the hymns which the choir is singing.

**Confession and Holy Communion:** Those who are prepared to receive Holy Communion may kneel in the center aisle or remain standing at their pew for the group recitation of the confession (p. 48-49). After the absolution please proceed via the central aisle towards the altar in an orderly manner. Two Parish Council members will be present to assist. Please return to your pew via the side aisles.

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**TODAY'S REQUIEMS (*Hokehankist*):**

***Requiem Prayer***

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
O Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have compassion, in your love as our creator, upon the souls of your servants who are at rest, especially upon the souls of your servants and maidservants:*

- **MARY JANIGIAN** (5 Year Memorial) - requested by Mr. & Mrs. Armen & Sonya Janigian, Ara and Sevan; Mrs. Theresa Janigian; Julia Tashjian Martin.

- **GEORGE MALIAN** (7 Year Memorial) - requested by Mrs. Marion Malian; Mr. & Mrs. George & Christine Malian and Family;

Michael Malian; Mrs. Helen Kinoian and Family; Mr. John Fusco and Family; Mr. John R. Kazarian; Mr. Richard Kazarian.

- **WALTER VARTAN MOURADJIAN** (16 Year Memorial) - requested by Susan Mouradjian and Family.

- **ARSHALOOS TASHJIAN; KRIKOR SHAPAZIAN** - requested by Julia Tashjian Martin.

- **ARDASHES JAMGOCHIAN** (33 Year Memorial) - requested by Daniel and Martha Jamgochian.

*...for whom we are offering these prayers. Be mindful of them in the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make them worthy of mercy, of expiation and forgiveness of sins. Glorify them and reckon them with the company of your saints at your right hand. For you are Lord and creator of all, judge of the living and of the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

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**CELL PHONES:** *We kindly ask that all cell phones be turned off prior to entering the church. Please show your respect to our holy sanctuary and to your fellow worshippers.*

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**Prayer of St. Ephraim**

Lord, cause the southern sweet zephyr of your Holy Spirit's breath to blow upon my hardened and thickened heart; and with your thunder and lightening wake up my frozen and withered mind. Amen.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY**

Following the Divine Liturgy we will conduct a special ***Blessing Service*** for all babies who have been baptized in our church over the last year.

***Poon Paregentan Celebration*** presented by the Women's Guild today, immediately following Church Services. Losh Kebab Dinner with fun, activities, and kid's parade. \$10 Adults, \$5 Children under 10. Tickets will be available at the door. Please join us. Please note that the Library will be closed today.

**FEBRUARY 21, 2007**

Following Church Services at 11:30 a.m., Ladies Aid will sponsor a ***Vospov Kheyma Luncheon*** at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are

requested by February 19, please call Sandra Pomfret at 942-3913 or the Church Office, 272-7712.

### FEBRUARY 25, 2007

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** - As a reminder, the *Parish Assembly* will be held on February 25. All are encouraged to attend. A list of eligible voters and eligible candidates will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Sunday School classrooms. Please see a member of the nominating committee with any questions. A light lunch will be offered before the meeting.

### MARCH 4, 2007

**Commemoration of Sumgait and Baku Massacres – 40th Day Requiem for Assassinated Journalist Hrant Dink** - On Sunday, March 4 we will commemorate the massacres against Armenians in Sumgait and Baku, Azerbaijan as well as the Karasoonk for Hrant Dink. There will be a short program following services.

**Hrant Dink Fund** - The Diocese this week launched a fund to provide support for the wife and family of Hrant Dink, the brave Armenian-Turkish journalist who was slain in front of his newspaper offices in Istanbul. A special collection will be taken up during the holy Badarak on Sunday, March 4. Checks may be made out either to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church or the Diocese of the Armenian Church. All funds collected here will be forwarded to the Diocese.

### MARCH 8, 2007

**Women's Guild** - Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. **King Arthur Flour Baking class/demonstration**. Recipes, tips and technique tricks that home bakers can use. Paula Gray, a representative of the King Arthur Flour Company, will be our instructor. Free admission. Contact the Church Office at 272-7712 or Nathalie Yaghoobian 353-2488 for reservations.

### MARCH 9-11, 2007

*"If being a Christian was a crime, would you be convicted?"* an ACYOA Juniors retreat for New England Armenian youth (ages 13-18). Friday evening - Sunday afternoon at the Metropolis of Boston Camp & Retreat Center, 329 Camp Merrimack Rd, Contoocook, NH. \$100 includes accommodations, meals and materials. Register by February 26. For more info. call Steve Megrđichian (464-9004).

### MARCH 10, 2007

**Saintly Women's Day** - This year the Women's Guilds of the New England Region will honor Queen Gadramide. Event to take place Saturday, March 10 at Holy Cross Armenian Church, 54 East Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA. Registration & coffee at 10:00 a.m., Service at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon and program. Menu: baked haddock and price: \$30 per person. A bus will be departing at 8:30 a.m. Please make your reservation by calling the church office

(272-7712) or Zita Butler (728-8015).

**MARCH 24, 2007**

The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church proudly presents its annual *Music Appreciation Series Concert "Sounds of Spring"* Featuring: *Haig Yaghoobian*, piano. Works range from classical to romantic periods and include works of Mozart and Chopin. Concert date is Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at the Music Mansion, 88 Meeting Street, Providence, RI Reception following the concert. Seating is very limited. Tickets: \$25.00 For tickets call the church office (401)272-7712 or Delicacies (401) 461-4774. No tickets will be sold at the door!

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**PARISH MEMBER DUES** - Following the decision of the February 19, 2006 Parish Assembly, membership dues for the year 2007 and moving forward is \$150 for general membership and \$100 for seniors and full-time students. Those unable to pay the full dues may confidentially approach Hayr Soorp to explain their situation. Parishioners are strongly encouraged to contribute beyond the minimum dues as part of the "*Stewardship Program.*"

**HOME BLESSINGS** - One of the major goals of this year's diocesan theme, "Church and Home: One in the Spirit" is to encourage the faithful to have their homes blessed. Please consider inviting Hayr Simeon to bless your home according to the tradition of the Armenian Church. There is no requirement to offer a meal nor present a gift to the priest. Please have a piece of bread, dish of salt and glass of water available for the blessing.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2007** - We have received scholarship applications from the Diocese of the Armenian Church. Scholarships are intended for needy Armenian American students attending accredited 4-year undergraduate university programs. Preference will be given to those who are active in the life of the Armenian Churches of the Eastern Diocese and are U.S. citizens. Please contact the church office for an application. Deadline for submission is June 15, 2007.

The **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the Charles Yaghoobian Jr. Scholarship Grants for 2007. Scholarship Grants will be awarded to qualified members of all three Armenian Churches in RI. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for consideration. For an application and a list of eligibility requirements you may contact Nathalie Yaghoobian at 353-2488. The deadline to submit application is Monday, April 2, 2007.

**CULTURAL COMMITTEE'S Arts Education Program 2006-2007** Second Semester has begun. Program offers art & cultural instruction in the following areas for a very modest fee. *In which classes would your child*

(children) be interested? Ages 7-16: Drawing & Sculpture, Piano, Violin, Ballroom Dancing (ages 8 – 16 ), Nazeli Dance Group (ages 9-16), Voice training, Clarinet, Saxophone, Guitar, Kanon, Kemancha. Ages 16 & up: Piano, Guitar, Kanon, Kamancha, Voice training, Ballroom Dancing. For registration form: <http://www.stsahmes.org/Education/artsartsReg.html>, or call to Church office 272 7712. For information or questions please contact Program Chairperson Janna Guegamian: Tel. 861-3573.

**“GLORIA IN EXCELSIS” CD** - Special price - only \$10. Our Junior Choir & the Narek Bell Choir of St. Mary Church, Washington, D.C. joined forces for this unforgettable recording of Armenian spiritual music. Songs on the CD are performed by the combined choir, as well as some unique features by the ringing sound of the Narek Bell Choir. You may purchase the CD from the Church office, 272-7712. Please support our Junior Choir.

**CHURCH LIBRARY** - Parishioners are encouraged to visit and make use of our newly organized Library. Library Hours: Sundays 12:30-1:30 p.m., and Mondays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **BOOK SALE** -- **“Colors and Words From Armenia and Beyond”** by Haroutune Armenian is a unique publication of different horizons from the Armenian highlands and the Mediterranean to the many corners of the Western world. Cost is only \$10.00. The book can be purchased during library hours on Sundays and on Mondays.

**CHILDREN’S & JUNIOR CHOIRS** - We invite your children and grandchildren to learn how to read music, religious hymns, popular Armenian Songs, participate in Divine Liturgy first Sunday of each month. Open for all ages 6 through 16, rehearsals at the Egavian Cultural Center. Please call the Church Office (272-7712) or Maestro Petrossian at 861-3573 to sign up your child.

**SENIOR CITIZENS** - Come join us every Monday (weather permitting, excluding Holidays). Have fun with your friends and neighbors, and enjoy with us “coffee and....”

**COFFEE HOUR** - Please consider sponsoring a **Coffee Fellowship** on the occasion of a Hokehankist (in memory of a loved one), a happy occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.) or to provide a wonderful service for our church. Contact Fran, the church secretary, to arrange a date (272-7712).

**ARDZAGANG (Echo)** - Armenian Television Program - Statewide Cable Interconnect Channel 13 (A): is broadcast on Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

**ARMENIAN RADIO HOUR** - Now heard on Sundays at 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. on WARL 1320 AM.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2007

- Today** Blessing of Babies Service following Divine Liturgy  
Poon Parentengan Celebration after Church
- 19 Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.  
First Day of Great Lent
- 21 Sunrise Service at 11:30 a.m.  
Ladies Aid Vospov Kheyima Luncheon 12:30 a.m.  
Lenten Service 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Our Father, who art  
in Heaven"*
- 23 Nazeli & Ballroom Dance Classes, 6:30 p.m.  
Junior Choir & Dance Groups Parents Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Arts Education, 10:30 a.m.
- 25 Annual Parish Assembly
- 28 Lenten Service 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Hallowed be Thy Name"*

### MARCH 2007

- 6 Ladies Aid Board Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 7 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"*
- 8 Women's Guild "King Arthur Flour" Demo 7:30 p.m.
- 10 ACYOA Jrs. Retreat in New Hampshire  
Saintly Women's Day at Armenian Church at Hye Point
- 14 Sunrise Service, 11:30 a.m.  
Ladies Aid Luncheon 12:30 p.m.  
Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"Give us this day our  
daily bread"*
- 18 ACYOA Jrs. Meeting 5-8 p.m.
- 21 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"And forgive us our  
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"*
- 24 Cultural Committee, Haig Yaghoobian at Music Mansion
- 28 Lenten Service, 7-8 p.m. - Theme: *"And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil"*

### APRIL 2007

- 1 Palm Sunday - ACYOA Palm Sunday Dinner
- 3 Holy Tuesday - Vesper Service, 7:30 p.m.
- 5 Holy Thursday - Divine Liturgy, 10:30 a.m.  
Ladies Aid Luncheon 12:30 p.m.  
Washing of the Feet Service, 7:00 p.m.  
Memorial of the Passion, 8:00 p.m.
- 6 Holy & Great Friday  
Memorial of the Crucifixion 12:00 noon  
Memorial of the Burial of Our Lord, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Holy & Great Saturday  
Children's Communion Breakfast & Service 11 a.m.  
Reading of Sacred Prophecies 6:30 p.m.  
Easter Eve Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Easter Sunday, Morning Service 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10am  
Blessing of the Four Corners of the World, 11:45 a.m.